

Series Title: **“The Kingdom Of Heaven Is At Hand”**
(A Study of the Second Coming of Jesus Christ)

Sermon Title: **“Are You Ready For The Lord’s Return?”**
(Part 7)

Sermon Text: Selected Scripture

Introduction:

- I. The Meaning Of The Second Coming Of Christ
- II. The Certainty Of The Second Coming Of Christ
- III. The Nature Of The Second Coming Of Christ
- IV. The Purpose Of The Second Coming Of Christ

V. The Time Of The Second Coming Of Christ

A. When Will The Rapture Of The Church Occur?

- There are three primary positions concerning the time of the Rapture: the **pre**-tribulational view, the **mid**-tribulational view, and the **post**-tribulational view.
- *There are two Rapture views that are commonly held today that we need to take a close look at:*

1. The **Pre-Tribulational Rapture View**

7 Biblical Arguments For A Pretribulational Rapture:

1) The **Scriptural Distinction Between The Church And The Nation Of Israel**

- In God’s overall prophetic plan He has two distinct **programs** for two distinct **groups** of **people**.
- *The Covenant promises of the Old Testament were made **with** Israel and therefore, must be fulfilled **to** Israel!*

“With the beginning of the Tribulation Period, God’s focus - which is presently on the Church - will return to Israel and will be seen in the fulfilling of those covenant promises which were made so many centuries ago!”

- **Romans 11:25-27**
- The ‘**spiritual hardening**’ that Paul refers to here was a **special judicial act** on the part of God because of the Jews’ rejection of Jesus as the Messiah.

- What is the meaning of the word “*partial*” and the phrase, “*the fullness of the Gentiles?*”

2) The **Stated Purpose** Of The Tribulation Does Not Include The Church

- *The first*, and most likely the greatest, purpose for the Tribulation is to prepare the **nation of Israel** for her **Messiah** and for the coming **Millennial Kingdom**.
- *The second* major purpose is to **execute judgment** on the wicked and in the process to take back the earth from Satan and all of those who do his will.
- *Jeremiah 30:7; Deuteronomy 4:30; Daniel 12:1; Ezekiel 20:37; Zechariah 13:8-9; Matthew 24:15-20; Daniel 9:24; Ezekiel 36:25-36; 37:1-14; 39:21-29; Jeremiah 31:31-34; Malachi 4:4-6; Romans 11:25-28; Revelation 7:4-14*

The primary purpose of the Tribulation simply does not involve the Church!

- The Church will not be brought into **judgment**, because the Lord took our judgment on Himself! (*John 5:24; Romans 8:1*)

3) The Church Is Exempted From The **Wrath Of God**

“The Tribulation is an absolutely unique period of time in all of human history during which the world will experience the wrath of God as never before!”

- *Matthew 24:21; Jeremiah 30:7; Daniel 12:1; Joel 2:2*
- Three reasons why the Tribulation is different from all other times in history:
 - It will be a **world-wide** reality and not simply a matter of **localized** death and destruction.
 - The magnitude of the ‘**supernatural**’ will be unprecedented.
 - The sheer number of **people who will die** during this relatively short period of time will be unrivaled in human history!
- *I Thessalonians 1:9-10; I Thessalonians 5:9-10; Revelation 3:10*

Conclusion:

Have you been delivered from the Wrath to Come?